

The Willow Park

MEN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2600, CASTRO VALLEY, CA. 94546

Issue: February 2008

Next Club Meeting:

February 28, 2008
6:30pm, WP Bar Annex

Tournament Deadlines:

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Club Officers:

George Vance

President
925-847-2921

Mike Jones

Vice President
925-837-2151

Huge Williams

Secretary
510-537-6844

Robin Paniagua

Treasurer
510-785-5866

Directors:

Dave Albiar
Steve Davis
Daniel Gil
Al Hamilton
Joe Johnson
Tom Joseph

Committees:

Tournament Chairman
Tony Paniagua
Handicap Chairman
Mark Hemenez
Membership
Larry Cobleigh
Sergeant at Arms
Ken Cadinha
Morale Officer
Herm Kerber
Webmaster
Daniel Turner
Newsletter Editor
Steve Falzone
Postal Coordinator
Peter Krass

2007 Tournament Schedule

Feb 3	+ 2 nd round 2008 Norcal Qualifier
Feb 24	Regular
Mar 16	+ 1 st round Two Man Norcal Qualifier
Apr 20	+ 2 nd round Two Man Norcal Qualifier
May 18	+ Colored Ball Team Competition
June 22	TC Surprise (4 Club)
July 20	Major - Presidents
July 27	Away tournament
Aug 17	Major - Directors
Sept 13/14	Major - Club Championship
Oct 19	+ Willow Cup Skins Competition
Nov 16	TC Surprise (RWB) + Turkey Shoot
Dec 14	+ 1 st round 2009 Norcal Qualifier
	+ = Regular tournament PLUS special event

Presidential Focus

Fellow Members,
Happy New Year to All! Football is now officially over with the completion of the Super Bowl, (*the Pro Bowl never counts!!!*). We can now analyze and debate what our favorite teams will need to do to make it to the "promised land" next season!

As we start 2008, may the "Golf Gods" be with us as we hone our golfing skills. We are jump starting the year with two tournaments this month. Ever since the Super Bowl has become a February Event we have had our Annual Super Bowl Tournament, and at the end of the month will be our regularly scheduled Monthly Tournament. Our 2008 Tournament Schedule looks to be quite promising and entertaining, with the ultimate "Grail", qualifying for the Skins Competition. I hope we can enjoy both the camaraderie and the competition throughout the year.

Remember, our Monthly Meetings are scheduled the last Thursday of every month. Though voting privileges are exclusive to the Officers and Directors, your presence and voice is always encouraged. Pertinent information and decisions about the operation of your club is always available on our Website.

In closing, I want to thank Rene Viviani for his continued generosity and support for our Club. He again graciously donated a

generous check to our Club. On behalf of ALL our members, I thank him.

Let's have a great 2008!

George Vance, President

Membership Update

As your Membership Chairman I can only shake my head at our Club's current low membership situation. Back in 1999 we had over 250 members going into February. This year at the start of February we will be lucky to have 115. Last year at this time we had 138 but ended with only 154 for the year. We were able to make it through the year by cutting back on a few expensive items like the Member/Guest Invitational Tournament. We didn't cut back on the Election Night festivities though and how about that great steak dinner?

Why is this happening? I don't really know. Possibly it had to do with some or all of the following: Having to pay for a tournament ten days early! No more Associate Memberships! Communication only by computer with members! Same old officers year after year! Course conditions! Too many new courses in the area! Fuel costs or golf fees too high! I'm sure there are many more reasons. You tell us! Why do you think our membership is where it is? Send me an email with your thoughts. Please be constructive! We need your help or you may soon end up paying a prize fee for tournaments. As far as I know, we are the only club in the area that doesn't collect for tournament prizes and yet we have been able to hold the annual dues down. Remember, \$40 of the yearly membership we collect goes directly to the NCGA.

Larry Cobleigh - tclarrycob@aol.com

NCGA Member Outings

Registration for the NCGA 2008 Members-Only Outing is now available for many of the courses. More information can be found from the link on our website.

Tales from the "Deep" Rough

It's been a while so this one might be lengthy. Well the 2008 season is ready to start with our usual Super Bowl tournament. We will start off with an individual net flight tournament. Now all we need is for the weather to cooperate a little so we can get the tournament in.

Just a heads up that while I still want your preference on where you would like your flight award certificate, because of our obligation for a per player prize fund to the pro shop, I may not be able to provide certificates in the restaurant for the first couple of tournaments. Please continue to indicate and I will keep you posted.

Speaking of the February tournament in addition to the usually handicap flights this will also be the second round of the NCGA qualifier. As I mentioned at the December tournament you have to play both rounds to qualify. If the February 3 tournament is rained out the qualifier will move to the February 24 tournament.

As you might suspect the course is a bit wet (OK a lot wet). This means that carts may not be available. I know many of you cannot play without a cart. If you know prior to the tournament date that you will not be playing let me know. The decision on whether carts are allowed is usually made by the course on the day of the tournament although they may know sooner. We will need a player count to pay the course so if you are not playing, let me or any officer of the club as well as the course know. You need to state your intention officially prior to your tee time. If you say nothing and just don't show up you will be in danger of losing your entry fee.

For those who do not play, the presumption will be that you wish to enter the next tournament and your entry will roll over to it. If you cannot or do not want to play in the next tournament you need to let me know immediately. Again if I don't hear from you the presumption is you want it to roll to the next tournament.

If the carts are not allowed, those that do play will receive a credit in the

amount of \$12 to be applied to the next tournament for cart rental. As such your entry fee for that next tournament need only be \$38. Once you use your credit your entry fee goes back to \$50. I will keep a list of who has a credit and how much. I will post it in the spike room and also look to see if there is space on the web site as well.

Did anyone (or everyone) notice the new Blue Ball Makers on the tee box on each hole. For tournaments we will continue to play the NCGA disk markers. One change that will take place is that on the 9th hole we will play the Blue Balls which will be located a few yards behind the white NCGA disk markers (which the 85er's will continue to play). We will use the Blue balls to also define the boundary for each tee. A Blue ball will be placed at the Blue NCGA marker with the other on the opposite side requiring play is between the NCGA disk marker on the right and the blue ball on the left.

In case you haven't heard the results of the NCGA new course rating are in. The blue is now rated at 68.2 with a slope of 118. The white is at 66.9 with a slope rating of 116. It appears they have rated the course a little easier. As far as I know the handicap assignments for each hole have not changed. With the lower slope assignments you may not get as many shots as last year so don't be surprised. The new ratings are posted on the board in the spike room.

In my continuing search for the perfect method to choose the players who qualify for our October skins competition I have proposed trying something new for 2008. The qualifiers will be determined based upon the top 4 low net and top 4 low gross scoring averages between February and September. You will have to play a minimum number of tournament rounds for your average score to qualify. I will probably settle on 80% of the tournament rounds played between February and September. The away tournament will once again be included and counted. I will post final details on the board in the spike room and see if there is room on the web site to post it there as well. Basically you want to play in as many tournaments as you can.

Upcoming Tournaments

Date: Sunday February 24, 2008.

Deadline: Wednesday February 13, 2008.

Club Tournament Entry Fee: \$50

Format: Individual Stroke Play with flights.

Special Event: None

Tony Paniagua – Tournament Chair

"At Large" Columnist

Each month this column is from a different Officer, Director or Chairperson.

Greetings from the semi-oval office. It's hard to imagine it's already February 2008 and our first tournament is finally here on SUNDAY, SUNDAY, SUPER BOWL SUNDAY.

I don't know about you, but I expect great things this year. My rededication to improving my game and having fun every chance I get, is foremost in my mind. Not to get too philosophical or emotional, we are here on this planet for a finite amount of time, so my goal is to be relatively good at the game of golf (bogey or better). Then when the arthritis and yips set in, I can say that I was a "player" back in the day.

Now back to reality. We the Willow Park Men's Club members play golf at one of the most beautiful and challenging courses in Northern California. I'm proud to say that this is my Home Course and if you can play here, you can play anywhere.

I hope to see most of you at our first tournament and wish you the best of luck, good health and fortune in the coming year.

Your Vice President
Mike Jones

"Sound Off"

Throughout the year this column will pose a question and give the answers to previous questions. Email responses to: stevfalcone@hotmail.com, please put WPMC in the subject line.

Last month's question was inspired by that rural mantra Jeff Foxworthy made famous.

You might be a Sandbagger if...

Some of our member responses:

- your initials are JJ (just joking JJ)
- you carry a 2 iron and use it as much as your driver.
- you shoot boggy golf on the front nine and birdie golf on the back nine.
- your nickname is "Ace, Birdie, or Scratch"